

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, EASTERN DIVISION

LAURIE AND MICHAEL MARNIELLA,

ROBERT AND PHYLLIS HEMPY,

ROGER STANLEY,

PAUL W. DOLES,

JOSEPH AND JAMIE DUPPSTADT,

STEPHANIE AND CHARLES GENTILE,

LINDA AND THOMAS GROVE,

STEVEN AND SANDRA RANGEL,

GEOFFREY SMITH,

SERGIO AND JENNIFER MARTINEZ,

KENNETH AND BRIDGET CAVEY,

LYNDELL WERNISING,

ROBERT BELSEY.

CASE NO: 4:17-cv-1593

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

*Plaintiff,*

VS.

MONSANTO COMPANY,

*Defendant.*

**COMPLAINT**

COMES NOW, Glen McNelly (“Plaintiff”), by and through his undersigned counsel, Onder, Shelton, O’Leary & Peterson, LLC, and for their cause of action against Defendant Monsanto Company, state to the Court as follows:

**I. NATURE OF THE CASE**

1. This is an action for damages suffered by Plaintiff as a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s negligent and wrongful conduct in connection with the design, development, manufacture, testing, packaging, promoting, marketing, advertising, distribution, labeling, and/or sale of the herbicide Roundup®, containing the active ingredient glyphosate.

2. Plaintiff maintains that Roundup® and/or glyphosate is defective, dangerous to human health, unfit and unsuitable to be marketed and sold in commerce, and lacked proper warnings and directions as to the dangers associated with its use.

3. Plaintiff’s injuries, like those striking thousands of similarly situated victims across the country, were avoidable.

**II. THE PARTIES**

4. Plaintiff Laurie Marniella is and was at all relevant times a resident of Ohio. She purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) from 2003 through 2016, and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2015. Plaintiff Michael Marniella is and was at all relevant times the spouse of Laurie Marniella.

5. Plaintiff Robert Hempy is and was at all relevant times a resident of Ohio. He purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) from 2006 to 2016, and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2015. Plaintiff Phyllis Hempy is and was at all relevant times the spouse of Robert Hempy.

6. Plaintiff Roger Stanley is and was at all relevant times a resident of Ohio. He purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) from 2004 to 2012, and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2015.

7. Plaintiff Paul W. Doles II is and was at all relevant times a resident of Ohio. He purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 1994 and died in 2003 from a illness.

8. Plaintiff Joseph Dupstadt is and was at all relevant times a resident of Pennsylvania. He purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) from 2011 to 2013, and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2015. Plaintiff Jamie Dupstadt is and was at all relevant times the spouse of Joseph Dupstadt.

9. Plaintiff Stephanie Gentile is and was at all relevant times a resident of Pennsylvania. She purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) from 1976 to present, and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2015. Plaintiff Charles Gentile is and was at all relevant times the spouse of Stephanie Gentile.

10. Plaintiff Linda Grove is and was at all relevant times a resident of Texas. She purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) from 1975 to present, and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2015. Plaintiff Thomas Grove is and was at all relevant times the spouse of Linda Grove.

11. Plaintiff Steven Rangel is and was at all relevant times a resident of Texas. He purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) for approximately 20 years through 2015, and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2015. Plaintiff Sandra Rangel is and was at all relevant times the spouse of Steven Rangel.

12. Plaintiff Geoffrey Smith is and was at all relevant times a resident of Texas and is the next of kin of Rex Smith, deceased. Rex Smith purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) from 1974 to 2015, and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2007.

13. Plaintiff Sergio Martinez is and was at all relevant times a resident of Texas. He purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) from 2009 to 2015, and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2015. Plaintiff Jennifer Martinez is and was at all relevant times the spouse of Sergio Martinez.

14. Plaintiff Kenneth Cavey is and was at all relevant times a resident of Maryland. He purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) from 2010 to 2014, and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2014. Plaintiff Bridget Cavey is and was at all relevant times the spouse of Kenneth Cavey.

15. Plaintiff Lyndell Wernsing is and was at all relevant times a resident of Illinois. He purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) from the 1970s to present, and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2001.

16. Plaintiff Robert Belsey is and was at all relevant times a resident of California. He purchased and used Roundup and/or other Monsanto glyphosate-containing products (“Roundup”) from 2011 to 2015, and was diagnosed with non Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2015.

17. Defendant Monsanto Company (“Monsanto”) is a Delaware corporation with its headquarters and principal place of business in St. Louis, Missouri and is a “local defendant” for purposes of Removal and Diversity Jurisdiction. At all relevant times, Monsanto also regularly

conducted, transacted, and solicited business in St. Louis, Missouri, as well as in all States of United States.

18. At all times relevant to this complaint, Monsanto was the entity that discovered the herbicidal properties of glyphosate and the manufacturer of Roundup®.

19. The expiration of any applicable statute of limitations is equitably tolled by reason of Monsanto's fraudulent misrepresentations and fraudulent concealment, detailed more fully below.

### **III. BACKGROUND**

20. In 1970, Defendant Monsanto Company, Inc. discovered the herbicidal properties of glyphosate and began marketing it in products in 1974 under the brand name Roundup®. Roundup® is a non-selective herbicide used to kill weeds that commonly compete with the growing of crops. By 2001, glyphosate had become the most-used active ingredient in American agriculture with 85–90 millions of pounds used annually. That number grew to 185 million pounds by 2007. As of 2013, glyphosate was the world's most widely used herbicide.

21. Monsanto is a multinational agricultural biotechnology corporation based in St. Louis, Missouri. It is the world's leading producer of glyphosate. As of 2009, Monsanto was the world's leading producer of seeds, accounting for 27% of the world seed market. The majority of these seeds are of the Roundup Ready® brand. The stated advantage of Roundup Ready® crops is that they substantially improve a farmer's ability to control weeds, since glyphosate can be sprayed in the fields during the growing season without harming their crops. In 2010, an estimated 70% of corn and cotton, and 90% of soybean fields in the United States were Roundup Ready®.

22. Monsanto's glyphosate products are registered in 130 countries and approved for use on over 100 different crops. They are ubiquitous in the environment. Numerous studies

confirm that glyphosate is found in rivers, streams, and groundwater in agricultural areas where Roundup® is used. It has been found in food, in the urine of agricultural workers, and even in the urine of urban dwellers who are not in direct contact with glyphosate.

23. On March 20, 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (“IARC”), an agency of the World Health Organization (“WHO”), issued an evaluation of several herbicides, including glyphosate. That evaluation was based, in part, on studies of exposures to glyphosate in several countries around the world, and it traces the health implications from exposure to glyphosate since 2001.

24. On July 29, 2015, IARC issued the formal monograph relating to glyphosate. In that monograph, the IARC Working Group provides a thorough review of the numerous studies and data relating to glyphosate exposure in humans.

25. The IARC Working Group classified glyphosate as a Group 2A herbicide, which means that it is probably carcinogenic to humans. The IARC Working Group concluded that the cancers most associated with glyphosate exposure are non-Hodgkin lymphoma and other haematopoietic cancers, including lymphocytic lymphoma/chronic lymphocytic leukemia, B-cell lymphoma, and multiple myeloma.

26. The IARC evaluation is significant. It confirms what has been believed for years: that glyphosate is toxic to humans.

27. Nevertheless, Monsanto, since it began selling Roundup®, has represented it as safe to humans and the environment. Indeed, Monsanto and has repeatedly proclaimed and continues to proclaim to the world, and particularly to United States consumers, that glyphosate-based herbicides, including Roundup®, create no unreasonable risks to human health or to the environment.

**IV. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

28. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendant and this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because there is complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiff and Defendant. Defendant is either incorporated and/or has its principal place of business outside of the state in which the Plaintiff resides.

29. The amount in controversy between Plaintiff and Defendant exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and cost.

30. The Court also has supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

31. Venue is proper within this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 in that Defendant conducts business here and is subject to personal jurisdiction in this district. Furthermore, Defendant sells, markets, and/or distributes Roundup® within the District of Missouri. Also, a substantial part of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to these claims occurred within this district.

**V. FACTS**

32. Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum, non-selective herbicide used in a wide variety of herbicidal products around the world.

33. Plants treated with glyphosate translocate the systemic herbicide to their roots, shoot regions and fruit, where it interferes with the plant's ability to form aromatic amino acids necessary for protein synthesis. Treated plants generally die within two to three days. Because plants absorb glyphosate, it cannot be completely removed by washing or peeling produce or by milling, baking, or brewing grains.

34. For nearly 40 years, farms across the world have used Roundup® without knowing of the dangers its use poses. That is because when Monsanto first introduced

Roundup®, it touted glyphosate as a technological breakthrough: it could kill almost every weed without causing harm either to people or to the environment. Of course, history has shown that not to be true. According to the WHO, the main chemical ingredient of Roundup®—glyphosate—is a probable cause of cancer. Those most at risk are farm workers and other individuals with workplace exposure to Roundup®, such as workers in garden centers, nurseries, and landscapers. Agricultural workers are, once again, victims of corporate greed. Monsanto assured the public that Roundup® was harmless. In order to prove this, Monsanto championed falsified data and attacked legitimate studies that revealed its dangers. Monsanto led a prolonged campaign of misinformation to convince government agencies, farmers and the general population that Roundup® was safe.

***The Discovery of Glyphosate and Development of Roundup®***

35. The herbicidal properties of glyphosate were discovered in 1970 by Monsanto chemist John Franz. The first glyphosate-based herbicide was introduced to the market in the mid-1970s under the brand name Roundup®. From the outset, Monsanto marketed Roundup® as a “safe” general-purpose herbicide for widespread commercial and consumer use. Monsanto still markets Roundup® as safe today.

***Registration of Herbicides under Federal Law***

36. The manufacture, formulation and distribution of herbicides, such as Roundup®, are regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (“FIFRA” or “Act”), 7 U.S.C. § 136 *et seq.* FIFRA requires that all pesticides be registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA” or “Agency”) prior to their distribution, sale, or use, except as described by the Act. 7 U.S.C. § 136a(a).



37. Because pesticides are toxic to plants, animals, and humans, at least to some degree, the EPA requires as part of the registration process, among other things, a variety of tests to evaluate the potential for exposure to pesticides, toxicity to people and other potential non-target organisms, and other adverse effects on the environment. Registration by the EPA, however, is not an assurance or finding of safety. The determination the Agency must make in registering or re-registering a product is not that the product is “safe,” but rather that use of the product in accordance with its label directions “will not generally cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment.” 7 U.S.C. § 136a(c)(5)(D).

38. FIFRA defines “unreasonable adverse effects on the environment” to mean “any unreasonable risk to man or the environment, taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of the use of any pesticide.” 7 U.S.C. § 136(bb). FIFRA thus requires EPA to make a risk/benefit analysis in determining whether a registration should be granted or allowed to continue to be sold in commerce.

39. The EPA registered Roundup® for distribution, sale, and manufacture in the United States and the States of Missouri and Illinois.

40. FIFRA generally requires that the registrant, Monsanto in the case of Roundup®, conducts the health and safety testing of pesticide products. The EPA has protocols governing the conduct of tests required for registration and the laboratory practices that must be followed in conducting these tests. The data produced by the registrant must be submitted to the EPA for review and evaluation. The government is not required, nor is it able, however, to perform the product tests that are required of the manufacturer.

41. The evaluation of each pesticide product distributed, sold, or manufactured is completed at the time the product is initially registered. The data necessary for registration of a

pesticide has changed over time. The EPA is now in the process of re-evaluating all pesticide products through a Congressionally-mandated process called “re-registration.” 7 U.S.C. § 136a-1. In order to reevaluate these pesticides, the EPA is demanding the completion of additional tests and the submission of data for the EPA’s review and evaluation.

42. In the case of glyphosate, and therefore Roundup®, the EPA had planned on releasing its preliminary risk assessment—in relation to the re-registration process—no later than July 2015. The EPA completed its review of glyphosate in early 2015, but it delayed releasing the risk assessment pending further review in light of the WHO’s health-related findings.

***Scientific Fraud Underlying the Marketing and Sale of Glyphosate/Roundup***

43. Based on early studies that glyphosate could cause cancer in laboratory animals, the EPA originally classified glyphosate as *possibly carcinogenic to humans* (Group C) in 1985. After pressure from Monsanto, including contrary studies it provided to the EPA, the EPA changed its classification to *evidence of non-carcinogenicity in humans* (Group E) in 1991. In so classifying glyphosate, however, the EPA made clear that the designation did not mean the chemical does not cause cancer: “It should be emphasized, however, that designation of an agent in Group E is based on the available evidence at the time of evaluation and should not be interpreted as a definitive conclusion that the agent will not be a carcinogen under any circumstances.”

44. On two occasions, the EPA found that the laboratories hired by Monsanto to test the toxicity of its Roundup® products for registration purposes committed fraud.

45. In the first instance, Monsanto, in seeking initial registration of Roundup® by EPA, hired Industrial Bio-Test Laboratories (“IBT”) to perform and evaluate pesticide

toxicology studies relating to Roundup®. IBT performed about 30 tests on glyphosate and glyphosate-containing products, including nine of the 15 residue studies needed to register Roundup®.

46. In 1976, the United States Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) performed an inspection of Industrial Bio-Test Industries (“IBT”) that revealed discrepancies between the raw data and the final report relating to the toxicological impacts of glyphosate. The EPA subsequently audited IBT; it too found the toxicology studies conducted for the Roundup® herbicide to be invalid. An EPA reviewer stated, after finding “routine falsification of data” at IBT, that it was “hard to believe the scientific integrity of the studies when they said they took specimens of the uterus from male rabbits.”

47. Three top executives of IBT were convicted of fraud in 1983.

48. In the second incident of data falsification, Monsanto hired Craven Laboratories in 1991 to perform pesticide and herbicide studies, including for Roundup®. In that same year, the owner of Craven Laboratories and three of its employees were indicted, and later convicted, of fraudulent laboratory practices in the testing of pesticides and herbicides.

49. Despite the falsity of the tests that underlie its registration, within a few years of its launch, Monsanto was marketing Roundup® in 115 countries.

50. Multiple studies have been ghostwritten in part and/or published by Monsanto through companies such as Intertek and Exponent, Inc. from 2000-present which minimize any safety concerns about the use of glyphosate; are used to convince regulators to allow the sale of Roundup, and are used to convince customers to use Roundup. Such studies include, but are not limited to Williams (2000); Williams (2012); Kier & Kirkland (2013); Kier (2015); Bus (2016); Chang (2016); and the Intertek Expert Panel Manuscripts. All of these studies have been

submitted to and relied upon the public and the EPA in assessing the safety of glyphosate. Through these means Monsanto has fraudulently represented that independent scientists have concluded that Glyphosate is safe. In fact, these independent experts have been paid by Monsanto and have failed to disclose the significant role Monsanto had in creating the manuscripts. Monsanto has further ghostwritten editorials for scientists such as Robert Tarone and Henry Miller to advocate for the safety of glyphosate in Newspapers and Magazines. Monsanto has also ghostwritten letters by supposed independent scientists submitted to regulatory agencies who are reviewing the safety of glyphosate.

51. Monsanto has also violated federal regulations in holding secret ex parte meetings and conversations with certain EPA employees to collude in a strategy to re-register glyphosate and to quash investigations into the carcinogenicity of glyphosate by other federal agencies such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Monsanto's close connection with the EPA arises in part from its offering of lucrative consulting gigs to retiring EPA officials.

52. In March 2015, The Joint Glyphosate Task Force at Monsanto's behest issued a press release sharply criticizing IARC, stating that IARC's conclusion was "baffling" and falsely claiming that "IARC did not consider any new or unique research findings when making its decision. It appears that only by deciding to exclude certain available scientific information and by adopting a different approach to interpreting the studies was this possible."

53. Beginning in 2011, the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) in Germany began preparing a study on the safety of glyphosate. Through the Glyphosate Task Force, Defendant was able to co-opt this study becoming the sole providers of data and ultimately wrote the report which was rubber-stamped by the BfR. The Glyphosate Task Force was solely

responsible for preparing and submitting summary of studies relied upon by the by the BfR. Defendant has used this report, which it wrote, to falsely proclaim the safety of glyphosate.

54. In October 2015, the Defendant, as a member of the Joint Glyphosate Task Force, wrote to the state of California to try to stop California from warning the public about the carcinogenicity of glyphosate arguing that the IARC classification is mistaken. In January of 2016 Monsanto filed a lawsuit to stop California from warning the public about the carcinogenicity of glyphosate.

***The Importance of Roundup® to Monsanto's Market Dominance Profits***

55. The success of Roundup® was key to Monsanto's continued reputation and dominance in the marketplace. Largely due to the success of Roundup® sales, Monsanto's agriculture division was out-performing its chemicals division's operating income, and that gap increased yearly. But with its patent for glyphosate expiring in the United States in the year 2000, Monsanto needed a strategy to maintain its Roundup® market dominance and to ward off impending competition.

56. In response, Monsanto began the development and sale of genetically engineered Roundup Ready® seeds in 1996. Since Roundup Ready® crops are resistant to glyphosate; farmers can spray Roundup® onto their fields during the growing season without harming the crop. This allowed Monsanto to expand its market for Roundup® even further; by 2000, Monsanto's biotechnology seeds were planted on more than 80 million acres worldwide and nearly 70% of American soybeans were planted from Roundup Ready® seeds. It also secured Monsanto's dominant share of the glyphosate/Roundup® market through a marketing strategy that coupled proprietary Roundup Ready® seeds with continued sales of its Roundup® herbicide.

57. Through a three-pronged strategy of increased production, decreased prices and by coupling with Roundup Ready® seeds, Roundup® became Monsanto's most profitable product. In 2000, Roundup® accounted for almost \$2.8 billion in sales, outselling other herbicides by a margin of five to one, and accounting for close to half of Monsanto's revenue. Today, glyphosate remains one of the world's largest herbicides by sales volume.

*Monsanto has known for decades that it falsely advertises the safety of Roundup®.*

58. In 1996, the New York Attorney General ("NYAG") filed a lawsuit against Monsanto based on its false and misleading advertising of Roundup ® products. Specifically, the lawsuit challenged Monsanto's general representations that its spray-on glyphosate-based herbicides, including Roundup®, were "**safer than table salt**" and "**practically non-toxic**" to mammals, birds, and fish. Among the representations the NYAG found deceptive and misleading about the human and environmental safety of Roundup® are the following:

- a) Remember that environmentally friendly Roundup herbicide is biodegradable. It won't build up in the soil so you can use Roundup with confidence along customers' driveways, sidewalks and fences ...
- b) And remember that Roundup is biodegradable and won't build up in the soil. That will give you the environmental confidence you need to use Roundup everywhere you've got a weed, brush, edging or trimming problem.
- c) Roundup biodegrades into naturally occurring elements.
- d) Remember that versatile Roundup herbicide stays where you put it. That means there's no washing or leaching to harm customers' shrubs or other desirable vegetation.

- e) This non-residual herbicide will not wash or leach in the soil. It ... stays where you apply it.
- f) You can apply Accord with “confidence because it will stay where you put it” it bonds tightly to soil particles, preventing leaching. Then, soon after application, soil microorganisms biodegrade Accord into natural products.
- g) Glyphosate is less toxic to rats than table salt following acute oral ingestion.
- h) Glyphosate's safety margin is much greater than required. It has over a 1,000-fold safety margin in food and over a 700-fold safety margin for workers who manufacture it or use it.
- i) You can feel good about using herbicides by Monsanto. They carry a toxicity category rating of 'practically non-toxic' as it pertains to mammals, birds and fish.
- j) “Roundup can be used where kids and pets will play and breaks down into natural material.” This ad depicts a person with his head in the ground and a pet dog standing in an area which has been treated with Roundup.

59. November 19, 1996, Monsanto entered into an Assurance of Discontinuance with NYAG, in which Monsanto agreed, among other things, “to cease and desist from publishing or broadcasting any advertisements [in New York] that represent, directly or by implication” that:

- a) its glyphosate-containing pesticide products or any component thereof are safe, non-toxic, harmless or free from risk. \* \* \*

b) its glyphosate-containing pesticide products or any component thereof manufactured, formulated, distributed or sold by Monsanto are biodegradable \* \*

\*

c) its glyphosate-containing pesticide products or any component thereof stay where they are applied under all circumstances and will not move through the environment by any means.

\* \* \*

d) its glyphosate-containing pesticide products or any component thereof are "good" for the environment or are "known for their environmental characteristics." \* \* \*

e) glyphosate-containing pesticide products or any component thereof are safer or less toxic than common consumer products other than herbicides;

f) its glyphosate-containing products or any component thereof might be classified as "practically non-toxic.

60. Monsanto did not alter its advertising in the same manner in any state other than New York, and on information and belief still has not done so today.

61. In 2009, France's highest court ruled that Monsanto had not told the truth about the safety of Roundup®. The French court affirmed an earlier judgement that Monsanto had falsely advertised its herbicide Roundup® as "biodegradable" and that it "left the soil clean."

#### ***Classifications and Assessments of Glyphosate***

62. The IARC process for the classification of glyphosate followed the stringent procedures for the evaluation of a chemical agent. Over time, the IARC Monograph program has reviewed 980 agents. Of those reviewed, it has determined 116 agents to be Group 1 (Known



Human Carcinogens); 73 agents to be Group 2A (Probable Human Carcinogens); 287 agents to be Group 2B (Possible Human Carcinogens); 503 agents to be Group 3 (Not Classified); and one agent to be Probably Not Carcinogenic.

63. The established procedure for IARC Monograph evaluations is described in the IARC Programme's Preamble. Evaluations are performed by panels of international experts, selected on the basis of their expertise and the absence of actual or apparent conflicts of interest.

64. One year before the Monograph meeting, the meeting is announced and there is a call both for data and for experts. Eight months before the Monograph meeting, the Working Group membership is selected and the sections of the Monograph are developed by the Working Group members. One month prior to the Monograph meeting, the call for data is closed and the various draft sections are distributed among Working Group members for review and comment. Finally, at the Monograph meeting, the Working Group finalizes review of all literature, evaluates the evidence in each category, and completes the overall evaluation. Within two weeks after the Monograph meeting, the summary of the Working Group findings are published in Lancet Oncology, and within a year after the meeting, the final Monograph is finalized and published.

65. In assessing an agent, the IARC Working Group reviews the following information:

- (a) human, experimental, and mechanistic data;
- (b) all pertinent epidemiological studies and cancer bioassays; and
- (c) representative mechanistic data. The studies must be publicly available and have sufficient detail for meaningful review, and reviewers cannot be associated with the underlying study.

66. In March 2015, IARC reassessed glyphosate. The summary published in *The Lancet Oncology* reported that glyphosate is a Group 2A agent and probably carcinogenic in humans.

67. On July 29, 2015, IARC issued its Monograph for glyphosate, Monograph 112. For Volume 112, the volume that assessed glyphosate, a Working Group of 17 experts from 11 countries met at IARC from March 3–10, 2015, to assess the carcinogenicity of certain herbicides, including glyphosate. The March meeting culminated nearly a one-year review and preparation by the IARC Secretariat and the Working Group, including a comprehensive review of the latest available scientific evidence. According to published procedures, the Working Group considered “reports that have been published or accepted for publication in the openly available scientific literature” as well as “data from governmental reports that are publicly available.”

68. The studies considered the following exposure groups: occupational exposure of farmers and tree nursery workers in the United States, forestry workers in Canada and Finland and municipal weed-control workers in the United Kingdom; and para-occupational exposure in farming families.

69. Glyphosate was identified as the second-most used household herbicide in the United States for weed control between 2001 and 2007 and the most heavily used herbicide in the world in 2012.

70. Exposure pathways are identified as air (especially during spraying), water, and food. Community exposure to glyphosate is widespread and found in soil, air, surface water, and groundwater, as well as in food.

71. The assessment of the IARC Working Group identified several case control studies of occupational exposure in the United States, Canada, and Sweden. These studies show a human health concern from agricultural and other work-related exposure to glyphosate.

72. The IARC Working Group found an increased risk between exposure to glyphosate and non-Hodgkin lymphoma (“NHL”) and several subtypes of NHL, and the increased risk persisted after adjustment for other pesticides.

73. The IARC Working Group also found that glyphosate caused DNA and chromosomal damage in human cells. One study in community residents reported increases in blood markers of chromosomal damage (micronuclei) after glyphosate formulations were sprayed.

74. In male CD-1 mice, glyphosate induced a positive trend in the incidence of a rare tumor, renal tubule carcinoma. A second study reported a positive trend for haemangiosarcoma in male mice. Glyphosate increased pancreatic islet-cell adenoma in male rats in two studies. A glyphosate formulation promoted skin tumors in an initiation-promotion study in mice.

75. The IARC Working Group also noted that glyphosate has been detected in the urine of agricultural workers, indicating absorption. Soil microbes degrade glyphosate to aminomethylphosphoric acid (AMPA). Blood AMPA detection after exposure suggests intestinal microbial metabolism in humans.

76. The IARC Working Group further found that glyphosate and glyphosate formulations induced DNA and chromosomal damage in mammals, and in human and animal cells in utero.

77. The IARC Working Group also noted genotoxic, hormonal, and enzymatic effects in mammals exposed to glyphosate. Essentially, glyphosate inhibits the biosynthesis of aromatic

amino acids, which leads to several metabolic disturbances, including the inhibition of protein and secondary product biosynthesis and general metabolic disruption.

78. The IARC Working Group also reviewed an Agricultural Health Study, consisting of a prospective cohort of 57,311 licensed pesticide applicators in Iowa and North Carolina. While this study differed from others in that it was based on a self-administered questionnaire, the results support an association between glyphosate exposure and Multiple Myeloma, Hairy Cell Leukemia (HCL), and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL), in addition to several other cancers.

***Other Earlier Findings About Glyphosate's Dangers to Human Health***

79. The EPA has a technical fact sheet, as part of its Drinking Water and Health, National Primary Drinking Water Regulations publication, relating to glyphosate. This technical fact sheet predates the IARC March 20, 2015, evaluation. The fact sheet describes the release patterns for glyphosate as follows:

***Release Patterns***

80. Glyphosate is released to the environment in its use as a herbicide for controlling woody and herbaceous weeds on forestry, right-of-way, cropped and non-cropped sites. These sites may be around water and in wetlands. It may also be released to the environment during its manufacture, formulation, transport, storage, disposal and cleanup, and from spills. Since glyphosate is not a listed chemical in the Toxics Release Inventory, data on releases during its manufacture and handling are not available. Occupational workers and home gardeners may be exposed to glyphosate by inhalation and dermal contact during spraying, mixing, and cleanup. They may also be exposed by touching soil and plants to which glyphosate was applied.

Occupational exposure may also occur during glyphosate's manufacture, transport storage, and disposal.

81. In 1995, the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides reported that in California, the state with the most comprehensive program for reporting of pesticide-caused illness, glyphosate was the third most commonly-reported cause of pesticide illness among agricultural workers.

***Recent Worldwide Bans on Roundup®/Glyphosate***

82. Several countries around the world have instituted bans on the sale of Roundup® and other glyphosate-containing herbicides, both before and since IARC first announced its assessment for glyphosate in March 2015, and more countries undoubtedly will follow suit in light of the as the dangers of the use of Roundup® are more widely known. The Netherlands issued a ban on all glyphosate-based herbicides in April 2014, including Roundup®, which takes effect by the end of 2015. In issuing the ban, the Dutch Parliament member who introduced the successful legislation stated: “Agricultural pesticides in user-friendly packaging are sold in abundance to private persons. In garden centers, Roundup® is promoted as harmless, but unsuspecting customers have no idea what the risks of this product are. Especially children are sensitive to toxic substances and should therefore not be exposed to it.”

83. The Brazilian Public Prosecutor in the Federal District requested that the Brazilian Justice Department suspend the use of glyphosate.

84. France banned the private sale of Roundup® and glyphosate following the IARC assessment for Glyphosate.

85. Bermuda banned both the private and commercial sale of glyphosates, including Roundup®. The Bermuda government explained its ban as follows: “Following a recent

scientific study carried out by a leading cancer agency, the importation of weed spray 'Roundup' has been suspended."

86. The Sri Lankan government banned the private and commercial use of glyphosates, particularly out of concern that Glyphosate has been linked to fatal kidney disease in agricultural workers.

87. The government of Columbia announced its ban on using Roundup® and glyphosate to destroy illegal plantations of coca, the raw ingredient for cocaine, because of the WHO's finding that glyphosate is probably carcinogenic.

## **VI. CLAIMS**

### **COUNT I** **STRICT LIABILITY (DESIGN DEFECT)**

88. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

89. Plaintiff brings this strict liability claim against Monsanto for defective design.

90. At all times relevant to this litigation, Monsanto engaged in the business of testing, developing, manufacturing, selling, distributing, and Monsanto a engaged in the marketing, packaging design, and promotion of Roundup® products, which are defective and unreasonably dangerous to consumers, including Plaintiff, thereby placing Roundup® products into the stream of commerce. These actions were under the ultimate control and supervision of Monsanto. At all times relevant to this litigation, Monsanto designed, researched, developed, manufactured, produced, tested, assembled, labeled, advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and distributed the Roundup® products used by the Plaintiff, as described above.

91. At all times relevant to this litigation, Roundup® products were manufactured, designed, and labeled in an unsafe, defective, and inherently dangerous manner that was dangerous for use by or exposure to the public, and, in particular, the Plaintiff.

92. At all times relevant to this litigation, Roundup® products reached the intended consumers, handlers, and users or other persons coming into contact with these products in Missouri and throughout the United States, including Plaintiff, without substantial change in their condition as designed, manufactured, sold, distributed, labeled, and marketed by Monsanto.

93. Roundup® products, as researched, tested, developed, designed, licensed, manufactured, packaged, labeled, distributed, sold, and marketed by Monsanto were defective in design and formulation in that when they left the hands of the manufacturers and/or suppliers, they were unreasonably dangerous and dangerous to an extent beyond that which an ordinary consumer would contemplate.

94. Roundup® products, as researched, tested, developed, designed, licensed, manufactured, packaged, labeled, distributed, sold, and marketed by Monsanto were defective in design and formulation in that when they left the hands of the manufacturers and/or suppliers, the foreseeable risks exceeded the alleged benefits associated with their design and formulation.

95. At all times relevant to this action, Monsanto knew or had reason to know that Roundup® products were defective and were inherently dangerous and unsafe when used in the manner instructed and provided by Monsanto.

96. Therefore, at all times relevant to this litigation, Roundup® products, as researched, tested, developed, designed, licensed, manufactured, packaged, labeled, distributed,

sold and marketed by Monsanto were defective in design and formulation, in one or more of the following ways:

- (a) When placed in the stream of commerce, Roundup® products were defective in design and formulation, and, consequently, dangerous to an extent beyond that which an ordinary consumer would contemplate.
- (b) When placed in the stream of commerce, Roundup® products were unreasonably dangerous in that they were hazardous and posed a grave risk of cancer and other serious illnesses when used in a reasonably anticipated manner.
- (c) When placed in the stream of commerce, Roundup® products contained unreasonably dangerous design defects and were not reasonably safe when used in a reasonably anticipated or intended manner.
- (d) Monsanto did not sufficiently test, investigate, or study Roundup® products and, specifically, the active ingredient glyphosate.
- (e) Exposure to Roundup® and glyphosate-containing products presents a risk of harmful side effects that outweigh any potential utility stemming from the use of the herbicide.
- (f) At the time of marketing its Roundup® products, Roundup® was defective in that exposure to Roundup® and specifically, its active ingredient glyphosate, could result in cancer and other severe illnesses and injuries.
- (g) Monsanto did not conduct adequate post-marketing surveillance of its Roundup® products.
- (h) Monsanto could have employed safer alternative designs and formulations.



97. Plaintiff was exposed to Roundup® products through his personal use of the products on his garden and lawn and in the course of his work, as described above, without knowledge of their dangerous characteristics.

98. At all times relevant to this litigation, Plaintiff used and/or was exposed to the use of Roundup® products in an intended or reasonably foreseeable manner without knowledge of their dangerous characteristics.

99. Plaintiff could not have reasonably discovered the defects and risks associated with Roundup® or glyphosate-containing products before or at the time of exposure.

100. The harm caused by Roundup® products far outweighed their benefit, rendering these products dangerous to an extent beyond that which an ordinary consumer would contemplate. Roundup® products were and are more dangerous than alternative products and Monsanto could have designed Roundup® products (including their packaging and sales aids) to make them less dangerous. Indeed, at the time that Monsanto designed Roundup® products, the state of the industry's scientific knowledge was such that a less risky design or formulation was attainable.

101. At the time Roundup® products left Monsanto's control, there was a practical, technically feasible and safer alternative design that would have prevented the harm without substantially impairing the reasonably anticipated or intended function of those herbicides.

102. Monsanto's defective design of Roundup® products was willful, wanton, fraudulent, malicious, and conducted with reckless disregard for the health and safety of users of the Roundup® products, including the Plaintiff herein.

103. Therefore, as a result of the unreasonably dangerous condition of its Roundup® products, Monsanto is strictly liable to Plaintiff.

104. The defects in Roundup® products caused or contributed to cause Plaintiff's grave injuries, and, but for Monsanto's misconduct and omissions, Plaintiff would not have sustained their injuries.

105. Monsanto's conduct, as described above, was reckless. Monsanto risked the lives of consumers and users of its products, including Plaintiff, with knowledge of the safety problems associated with Roundup® and glyphosate-containing products, and suppressed this knowledge from the general public. Monsanto made conscious decisions not to redesign, warn or inform the unsuspecting public. Monsanto's reckless conduct warrants an award of aggravated damages.

106. As a direct and proximate result of Monsanto placing defective Roundup® products into the stream of commerce, Plaintiff has suffered and continue to suffer grave injuries, and have endured physical pain and discomfort, as well as economic hardship, including considerable financial expenses for medical care, and treatment.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor for compensatory and punitive damages in an amount in excess of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), together with interest, costs herein incurred, and all such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper. Plaintiff also demands a jury trial on the issues contained herein.

**COUNT II**  
**STRICT LIABILITY (FAILURE TO WARN)**

107. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

108. Plaintiff brings this strict liability claim against Monsanto for failure to warn.

109. At all times relevant to this litigation, Monsanto engaged in the business of testing, developing, designing, manufacturing, marketing, selling, distributing, and promoting Roundup® products, which are defective and unreasonably dangerous to consumers, including Plaintiff, because they do not contain adequate warnings or instructions concerning the dangerous characteristics of Roundup® and specifically, the active ingredient glyphosate. These actions were under the ultimate control and supervision of Monsanto.

110. Monsanto researched, developed, designed, tested, manufactured, inspected, labeled, distributed, marketed, promoted, sold, and otherwise released into the stream of commerce Roundup® products, and in the course of same, directly advertised or marketed the products to consumers and end users, including the Plaintiff, and therefore had a duty to warn of the risks associated with the use of Roundup® and glyphosate-containing products.

111. At all times relevant to this litigation, Monsanto had a duty to properly test, develop, design, manufacture, inspect, package, label, market, promote, sell, distribute, maintain supply, provide proper warnings, and take such steps as necessary to ensure that Roundup® products did not cause users and consumers to suffer from unreasonable and dangerous risks. Monsanto had a continuing duty to warn the Plaintiff of the dangers associated with Roundup® use and exposure. Monsanto, as manufacturer, seller, promoter, marketer, or distributor of chemical herbicides are held to the knowledge of an expert in the field.

112. At the time of manufacture, Monsanto could have provided the warnings or instructions regarding the full and complete risks of Roundup® and glyphosate-containing products because it knew or should have known of the unreasonable risks of harm associated with the use of and/or exposure to such products.

113. At all times relevant to this litigation, Monsanto failed to investigate, study, test, or promote the safety or to minimize the dangers to users and consumers of its product and to those who would foreseeably use or be harmed by these herbicides, including Plaintiff.

114. Despite the fact that Monsanto knew or should have known that Roundup® posed a grave risk of harm, it failed to exercise reasonable care to warn of the dangerous risks associated with use and exposure. The dangerous propensities of these products and the carcinogenic characteristics of glyphosate, as described above, were known to Monsanto, or scientifically knowable to Monsanto through appropriate research and testing by known methods, at the time it distributed, marketed, promoted, supplied or sold the product, and not known to end users and consumers, such as Plaintiff.

115. These products created significant risks of serious bodily harm to consumers, as alleged herein, and Monsanto failed to adequately warn consumers and reasonably foreseeable users of the risks of exposure to its products. Monsanto has wrongfully concealed information concerning the dangerous nature of Roundup® and its active ingredient glyphosate, and further made false and/or misleading statements concerning the safety of Roundup® and glyphosate.

116. At all times relevant to this litigation, Roundup® products reached the intended consumers, handlers, and users or other persons coming into contact with these products in Missouri and throughout the United States, including Plaintiff, without substantial change in their condition as designed, manufactured, sold, distributed, labeled, promoted and marketed by Monsanto.

117. Plaintiff was exposed to Roundup® products in the course of his personal use on his garden and lawn, without knowledge of their dangerous characteristics.

118. At all times relevant to this litigation, Plaintiff used and/or was exposed to the use of Roundup® products in their intended or reasonably foreseeable manner without knowledge of their dangerous characteristics.

119. Plaintiff could not have reasonably discovered the defects and risks associated with Roundup® or glyphosate-containing products prior to or at the time of Plaintiff's exposure. Plaintiff relied upon the skill, superior knowledge, and judgment of Monsanto.

120. These product were defective because the minimal warnings disseminated with Roundup® products were inadequate, and it failed to communicate adequate information on the dangers and safe use/exposure and failed to communicate warnings and instructions that were appropriate and adequate to render the products safe for their ordinary, intended and reasonably foreseeable uses, including agricultural and landscaping applications.

121. The information that Monsanto did provide or communicate failed to contain relevant warnings, hazards, and precautions that would have enabled consumers such as Plaintiff to utilize the products safely and with adequate protection. Instead, Monsanto disseminated information that was inaccurate, false, and misleading and which failed to communicate accurately or adequately the comparative severity, duration, and extent of the risk of injuries with use of and/or exposure to Roundup® and glyphosate; continued to aggressively promote the efficacy of its products, even after it knew or should have known of the unreasonable risks from use or exposure; and concealed, downplayed, or otherwise suppressed, through aggressive marketing and promotion, any information or research about the risks and dangers of exposure to Roundup® and glyphosate.

122. To this day, Monsanto has failed to adequately and accurately warn of the true risks of Plaintiff's injuries associated with the use of and exposure to Roundup® and its active ingredient glyphosate, a probable carcinogen.

123. As a result of their inadequate warnings, Roundup® products were defective and unreasonably dangerous when they left the possession and/or control of Monsanto, were distributed, marketed, and promoted by Monsanto, and used by Plaintiff in his work.

124. Monsanto is liable to Plaintiff for injuries caused by their negligent or willful failure, as described above, to provide adequate warnings or other clinically relevant information and data regarding the appropriate use of these products and the risks associated with the use of or exposure to Roundup® and glyphosate.

125. The defects in Roundup® products caused or contributed to cause Plaintiff's injuries, and, but for this misconduct and omissions, Plaintiff would not have sustained their injuries.

126. Had Monsanto provided adequate warnings and instructions and properly disclosed and disseminated the risks associated with Roundup® products, Plaintiff could have avoided the risk of developing injuries as alleged herein.

127. As a direct and proximate result of Monsanto placing defective Roundup® products into the stream of commerce, Plaintiff has suffered severe injuries and have endured physical pain and discomfort, as well as economic hardship, including considerable financial expenses for medical care and treatment.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor for compensatory and punitive damages in an amount in excess of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) together with interest, costs herein incurred, and all such other and further

relief as this Court deems just and proper. Plaintiff also demands a jury trial on the issues contained herein.

**COUNT III**

**NEGLIGENCE**

128. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

129. Monsanto, directly or indirectly, caused Roundup® products to be sold, distributed, packaged, labeled, marketed, promoted, and/or used by Plaintiff.

130. At all times relevant to this litigation, Monsanto had a duty to exercise reasonable care in the design, research, manufacture, marketing, advertisement, supply, promotion, packaging, sale, and distribution of Roundup® products, including the duty to take all reasonable steps necessary to manufacture, promote, and/or sell a product that was not unreasonably dangerous to consumers and users of the product.

131. At all times relevant to this litigation, Monsanto had a duty to exercise reasonable care in the marketing, advertisement, and sale of the Roundup® products. Monsanto's duty of care owed to consumers and the general public included providing accurate, true, and correct information concerning the risks of using Roundup® and appropriate, complete, and accurate warnings concerning the potential adverse effects of exposure to Roundup®, and, in particular, its active ingredient glyphosate.

132. At all times relevant to this litigation, Monsanto knew or, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known of the hazards and dangers of Roundup® and specifically, the carcinogenic properties of the chemical glyphosate.

133. Accordingly, at all times relevant to this litigation, Monsanto knew or, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known that use of or exposure to its Roundup® products could cause or be associated with Plaintiff's injuries and thus created a dangerous and unreasonable risk of injury to the users of these products, including Plaintiff.

134. Monsanto also knew or, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known that users and consumers of Roundup® were unaware of the risks and the magnitude of the risks associated with use of and/or exposure to Roundup® and glyphosate-containing products.

135. As such, Monsanto breached the duty of reasonable care and failed to exercise ordinary care in the design, research, development, manufacture, testing, marketing, supply, promotion, advertisement, packaging, sale, and distribution of its Roundup® products, in that Monsanto manufactured, marketed, promoted, and sold defective herbicides containing the chemical glyphosate, knew or had reason to know of the defects inherent in these products, knew or had reason to know that a user's or consumer's exposure to the products created a significant risk of harm and unreasonably dangerous side effects, and failed to prevent or adequately warn of these risks and injuries.

136. Despite an ability and means to investigate, study, and test these products and to provide adequate warnings, Monsanto has failed to do so. Indeed, Monsanto has wrongfully concealed information and have further made false and/or misleading statements concerning the safety and/or exposure to Roundup® and glyphosate.

137. Monsanto was negligent in the following respects:

- (a) Manufacturing, producing, promoting, formulating, creating, developing, designing, selling, and/or distributing its Roundup® products without thorough and adequate pre- and post-market testing;



- (b) Manufacturing, producing, promoting, formulating, creating, developing, designing, selling, and/or distributing Roundup® while negligently and/or intentionally concealing and failing to disclose the results of trials, tests, and studies of exposure to glyphosate, and, consequently, the risk of serious harm associated with human use of and exposure to Roundup®;
- (c) Failing to undertake sufficient studies and conduct necessary tests to determine whether or not Roundup® products and glyphosate-containing products were safe for their intended use in agriculture and horticulture;
- (d) Failing to use reasonable and prudent care in the design, research, manufacture, and development of Roundup® products so as to avoid the risk of serious harm associated with the prevalent use of Roundup®/glyphosate as an herbicide;
- (e) Failing to design and manufacture Roundup® products so as to ensure they were at least as safe and effective as other herbicides on the market;
- (f) Failing to provide adequate instructions, guidelines, and safety precautions to those persons who Monsanto could reasonably foresee would use and be exposed to its Roundup® products;
- (g) Failing to disclose to Plaintiff, users/consumers, and the general public that use of and exposure to Roundup® presented severe risks of cancer and other grave illnesses;
- (h) Failing to warn Plaintiff, consumers, and the general public that the product's risk of harm was unreasonable and that there were safer and effective alternative herbicides available to Plaintiff and other consumers;

- (i) Systematically suppressing or downplaying contrary evidence about the risks, incidence, and prevalence of the side effects of Roundup® and glyphosate-containing products;
- (j) Representing that its Roundup® products were safe for their intended use when, in fact, Monsanto knew or should have known that the products were not safe for their intended purpose;
- (k) Declining to make or propose any changes to Roundup® products' labeling or other promotional materials that would alert the consumers and the general public of the risks of Roundup® and glyphosate;
- (l) Advertising, marketing, and recommending the use of the Roundup® products, while concealing and failing to disclose or warn of the dangers known by Monsanto to be associated with or caused by the use of or exposure to Roundup® and glyphosate;
- (m) Continuing to disseminate information to its consumers, which indicate or imply that Monsanto's Roundup® products are not unsafe for use in the agricultural and horticultural industries; and
- (n) Continuing the manufacture and sale of its products with the knowledge that the products were unreasonably unsafe and dangerous.

138. Monsanto knew and/or should have known that it was foreseeable that consumers such as Plaintiff would suffer injuries as a result of Monsanto's failure to exercise ordinary care in the manufacturing, marketing, promotion, labeling, distribution, and sale of Roundup®.

139. Plaintiff did not know the nature and extent of the injuries that could result from the intended use of and/or exposure to Roundup® or its active ingredient glyphosate.

140. Monsanto's negligence was the proximate cause of the injuries, harm, and economic losses that Plaintiff suffered, as described herein.

141. Monsanto's conduct, as described above, was reckless. Monsanto regularly risked the lives of consumers and users of their products, including Plaintiff, with full knowledge of the dangers of these products. Monsanto has made conscious decisions not to redesign, re-label, warn, or inform the unsuspecting public, including Plaintiff. Monsanto's reckless conduct therefore warrants an award of aggravated or punitive damages.

142. As a proximate result of Monsanto's wrongful acts and omissions in placing defective Roundup® products into the stream of commerce without adequate warnings of the hazardous and carcinogenic nature of glyphosate, Plaintiff has suffered severe and permanent physical and emotional injuries. Plaintiff has endured pain and suffering, has suffered economic losses (including significant expenses for medical care and treatment) in an amount to be determined.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor for compensatory and punitive damages in an amount in excess of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) together with interest, costs herein incurred, and all such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper. Plaintiff also demands a jury trial on the issues contained herein.

#### **COUNT IV**

#### **FRAUD, MISREPRESENTATION, AND SUPPRESION**

143. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

144. Defendant fraudulently, intentionally, and/or negligently misrepresented to the public, and to the Plaintiff, both directly and by and through the media, the scientific literature and purported “community outreach” programs, the safety of Roundup products, and/or fraudulently, intentionally, and/or negligently concealed, suppressed, or omitted material, adverse information regarding the safety of Roundup.

145. The intentional and/or negligent misrepresentations and omissions of Defendant regarding the safety of Roundup products was communicated to Plaintiff directly through ghostwritten articles, editorials, national and regional advertising, marketing and promotion efforts, as well as the packaging and sales aids. The safety of Roundup products was also intentionally and/or negligently misrepresented to Plaintiff and the public with the intent that such misrepresentations would cause Plaintiff and other potential consumers to purchase and use or continue to purchase and use Roundup products.

146. Defendant either knew or should have known of the material representations it was making regarding the safety and relative utility of Roundup products.

147. Defendant fraudulently, intentionally, and/or negligently made the misrepresentations and/or actively concealed, suppressed, or omitted this material information with the specific desire to induce Plaintiff, and the consuming public to purchase and use Roundup products. Defendant fraudulently, intentionally, and/or negligently, knew or should have known that Plaintiff and the consuming public would rely on such material misrepresentations and/or omissions in selecting and applying Roundup products. Defendant knew or should have known that Plaintiff would rely on their false representations and omissions.

148. Defendant made these misrepresentations and actively concealed adverse information including the risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, at a time when, their agents and/or

employees knew or should have known, the product had defects, dangers, and characteristics that were other than what was represented to the consuming public.

149. Despite the fact that Defendant knew or should have known of reports of severe risks including non-Hodgkin lymphoma, with Roundup use and exposure, this information was strategically minimized, understated, or omitted in order to create the impression that the human dangers of Roundup were nonexistent, particularly in light of its purported utility.

150. The fraudulent, intentional and/or negligent material misrepresentations and/or active concealment, suppression, and omissions by Defendant were perpetuated directly and/or indirectly through the advertisements, packaging, sales aids, furtive public relations efforts, and other marketing and promotional pieces authored, analyzed, created, compiled, designed, drafted, disseminated, distributed, edited, evaluated, marketed, published, and supplied.

151. If Plaintiff had known the true facts concerning the risks associated with Roundup exposure, Plaintiff would have used a safer alternative.

152. Plaintiff's reliance upon the material misrepresentations and omissions was justified, among other reasons, because said misrepresentations and omissions were made by individuals and entities who were in a position to know the true facts concerning Roundup while Plaintiff was not in a position to know the true facts because Defendant overstated the benefits and safety of Roundup and downplayed the risk of lymphoma, thereby inducing Plaintiff to use the herbicide rather than safer alternatives.

153. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's actions and inactions, Plaintiff was exposed to Roundup and suffered and will continue to suffer injuries and damages, as set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for compensatory, treble, and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees, in an amount greater than Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), and all such other relief as the Court deems proper.

**COUNT V**

**VIOLATION OF THE CONSUMER FRAUD ACTS**

154. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

155. Defendant fraudulently, intentionally, negligently, and/or innocently misrepresented to the public, and to the Plaintiff, both directly and by and through the media and purported "community outreach" programs, the safety of Roundup products, and/or fraudulently, intentionally, negligently and/or innocently concealed, suppressed, or omitted material, adverse information regarding the safety of Roundup. This deception caused injury to Plaintiff in violation of the Consumer Fraud Act of the Plaintiff's home state which creates private rights of action by the Plaintiff.

156. The intentional, negligent, and/or innocent misrepresentations and omissions of Defendant regarding the safety of Roundup products were communicated to Plaintiff directly through national and regional advertising, marketing and promotion efforts, as well as the packaging and sales aids. The safety of Roundup products was also intentionally, negligently, and/or innocently misrepresented to Plaintiff and the public with the intent that such misrepresentations would cause Plaintiff and other potential consumers to purchase and use or continue to purchase and use Roundup products.

157. Defendant either knew or should have known of the material representations it was making regarding the safety and relative utility of Roundup products.

158. Defendant fraudulently, intentionally, negligently, and/or innocently made the misrepresentations and/or actively concealed, suppressed, or omitted this material information with the specific desire to induce Plaintiff, and the consuming public to purchase and use Roundup products. Defendant fraudulently, intentionally, negligently, and/or innocently, knew or should have known that Plaintiff and the consuming public would rely on such material misrepresentations and/or omissions in selecting and applying Roundup products. Defendant knew or should have known that Plaintiff would rely on their false representations and omissions.

159. Defendant made these misrepresentations and actively concealed adverse information including the risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, at a time when, their agents and/or employees knew or should have known, the product had defects, dangers, and characteristics that were other than what was represented to the consuming public. Specifically, Defendant misrepresented and actively concealed, suppressed, and omitted that there had been inadequate testing of the safety and efficacy of Roundup, and that prior studies, research, reports, and/or testing had been conducted linking the use of the drug with serious health events, including non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

160. Despite the fact that Defendant knew or should have known of reports of severe risks including non-Hodgkin lymphoma, with Roundup use and exposure, this information was strategically minimized, understated, or omitted in order to create the impression that the human dangers of Roundup were nonexistent, particularly in light of its purported utility.

161. The fraudulent, intentional, negligent and/or innocent material misrepresentations and/or active concealment, suppression, and omissions by Defendant were perpetuated directly and/or indirectly through the advertisements, packaging, sales aids, furtive public relations efforts, and other marketing and promotional pieces authored, analyzed, created, compiled, designed,

drafted, disseminated, distributed, edited, evaluated, marketed, published, and supplied by Defendant.

162. If Plaintiff had known the true facts concerning the risks associated with Roundup exposure, Plaintiff would have used a safer alternative.

163. Plaintiff's reliance upon the material misrepresentations and omissions was justified, among other reasons, because said misrepresentations and omissions were made by individuals and entities who were in a position to know the true facts concerning Roundup while Plaintiff was not in a position to know the true facts because Defendant overstated the benefits and safety of Roundup and downplayed the risk of lymphoma, thereby inducing Plaintiff to use the herbicide rather than safer alternatives.

164. Federal law and the EPA do not authorize and specifically prohibit the deceptions, misrepresentations and omissions made by Defendant.

165. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's actions and inactions, Plaintiff was exposed to Roundup and suffered and will continue to suffer injuries and damages, as set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for compensatory, treble, and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees, in an amount greater than Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), and all such other relief as the Court deems proper.

#### **LIMITATION ON ALLEGATIONS**

166. The allegations in this pleading are made pursuant to the laws of the Plaintiff's home state of Illinois. To the extent state law imposes a duty or obligation on the Defendant that exceeds those required by federal law, Plaintiff does not assert such claims. All claims asserted herein run parallel to federal law, i.e., the Defendant's violations of Illinois law were also



violations of federal law. Had Defendant honestly complied with Illinois law, it would also have complied with federal law.

167. Additionally, Plaintiff's claims do not seek to enforce federal law. These claims are brought under Illinois law, notwithstanding the fact that such claims run parallel to federal law.

168. As alleged in this pleading, Monsanto violated U.S.C. § 136j and 40 C.F.R. § 10(a)(5) by distributing Roundup, which was misbranded pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 136(g). Federal law specifically prohibits the distribution of a misbranded herbicide.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant for compensatory damages as set forth above and for exemplary damages for the in an amount in excess of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) to punish Defendant, and to deter Defendant and other businesses from like conduct, and such other and further relief as this Court deems just, proper, and equitable.

**ONDER, SHELTON, O'LEARY  
&PETERSON, LLC**

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